

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (New) A wall block for use in a segmental retaining wall system, the wall block comprising:

an interior block face for forming an interior surface of a segmental retaining wall;

an exterior block face for forming an exterior surface of a segmental retaining wall;

first and second block sides that extend from the exterior block face to the interior block face;

a block top surface having a lock channel formed therein, the lock channel being defined by a channel front wall, a channel rear wall, and a channel bottom surface, the lock channel extending across the block top surface from the first block side to the second block side, wherein the channel front wall includes a first shoulder that extends towards the interior block face so as to overhang a portion of the channel front wall, wherein the channel rear wall includes a second shoulder that extends towards the exterior block face so as to overhang a portion of the channel rear wall, and wherein the shoulders run generally parallel to each other along the lock channel to define an opening that is narrower than the width of the lock channel in the area between the channel opening and the channel bottom surface; and

a block bottom surface having a lock flange, the lock flange including a flange front surface extending from the block bottom surface, a flange rear surface extending from the block bottom surface, and a flange bottom surface extending between the flange front and rear surfaces, the lock flange extending across at least a portion of the block bottom surface in substantially the same direction as the lock channel and being sized, shaped, and positioned such that when the block is placed on top of a similarly configured block the bottom of the lock flange can pass through the opening of the lock channel of the similarly configured block to couple the blocks together.

13. (New) The wall block of claim 12, wherein the channel bottom surface is arcuate.
14. (New) The wall block of claim 12, wherein the first shoulder is defined by first and second substantially planar surfaces.
15. (New) The wall block of claim 14, wherein the first substantially planar surface extends downwardly from the block top surface at an angle of approximately 90° and the second substantially planar surface extends obliquely towards the exterior block face from the first substantially planar surface.
16. (New) The wall block of claim 15, wherein the second substantially planar surface extends at an angle of approximately 45° from the first substantially planar surface.
17. (New) The wall block of claim 12, wherein at least portions of the front and rear surfaces of the lock flange extend obliquely toward the exterior block face.
18. (New) The wall block of claim 12, wherein the lock flange extends across the block bottom surface from the first block side to the second block side.
19. (New) The wall block of claim 12, wherein the exterior block face slopes inwardly from the block bottom surface to the block top surface.
20. (New) The wall block of claim 12, further comprising an interior opening that extends from the first block side to the second block side.
21. (New) The wall block of claim 12 wherein the lock flange front surface includes a portion that extends towards the exterior block face so as to overhang a portion of the flange front surface, the portion that extends towards the exterior block face being configured to engage the first shoulder of the lock channel of the similarly configured block such that, when the wall block is stacked atop the similarly configured block, engagement between the lock flange of the

wall block and the first shoulder of the lock channel of the similarly configured block resists forward leaning or toppling of the wall block.

22. (New) The wall block of claim 21, wherein the first shoulder is defined by first and second substantially planar surfaces.

23. (New) The wall block of claim 22, wherein the first substantially planar surface extends downwardly from the block top surface at an angle of approximately 90° and the second substantially planar surface extends obliquely towards the exterior block face from the first substantially planar surface.

24. (New) The wall block of claim 23, wherein the second substantially planar surface extends at an angle of approximately 45° from the first substantially planar surface.

25. (New) The wall block of claim 21, wherein the rear surface of the lock flange extends obliquely towards the exterior block face.

26. (New) A segmental retaining wall, comprising:
a plurality of courses of concrete wall blocks stacked one atop the other, each block including an interior block face, an exterior block face, first and second block sides that extend from the exterior block face to the interior block face, a block top surface and a block bottom surface, each of the blocks in a plurality of adjacent blocks in at least one of the courses including a lock channel, the lock channel in each block extending across one of the interior block face and the block top surface from the first block side to the second block side, the lock channels in adjacent blocks being aligned and being adapted to receive a portion of a soil reinforcement member and a portion of a soil reinforcement member retaining bar, each of the lock channels being defined by a front wall, a rear wall, and a channel bottom surface, the front wall of each of the lock channels includes a first shoulder that extends toward the rear wall of the lock channel so as to overhang a portion of the channel front wall, wherein the channel rear wall includes a second shoulder that extends towards the front wall of the lock channel so as to overhang a portion of the channel rear wall, and wherein the shoulders run generally parallel to

each other along the lock channel to define a channel opening that is narrower than the width of the lock channel in the area between the channel opening and the channel bottom surface;

a soil reinforcement member extending into soil behind the retaining wall to stabilize the soil against movement, the soil reinforcement member including a portion located in the aligned lock channels of at least two of the adjacent blocks in the at least one course; and

at least one soil reinforcement member retainer bar, at least a portion of which is positioned within the aligned lock channels of at least two of the adjacent blocks in the at least one course that also contains the portion of the reinforcement member, the retainer bar having front, back, top, and bottom surfaces, the retainer bar having a front to back dimension that is greater than the width of the channel opening, the retainer bar having a top to bottom dimension that is less than the width of the narrow channel opening;

the aligned lock channels being of such size and shape as to permit the retainer bar to be inserted into the aligned channels through the channel opening between the first and second shoulders with a portion of the soil reinforcement member interposed between the retainer bar and the channel walls, and then to be rotated into a position below the first and second shoulders in which the retainer bar cannot be removed from the channel without rotation, whereby the soil reinforcement member is clamped between the retainer bar and the channel rear wall when a tensile force is exerted on the portion of the soil reinforcement member extending behind the channel.

27. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 26, wherein the soil reinforcement member is a geogrid.

28. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 26, wherein the lock channel in each of the adjacent blocks extends across the top surface of each block.

29. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 28, wherein each of the adjacent blocks includes an integral lock flange on the block bottom surface defined by a flange front surface, a flange rear surface, and a flange bottom surface that extends between the flange front and rear surfaces, the lock flange being sized, shaped, and positioned so that the bottom of the

flange fits through the channel opening of a similarly configured block when the block is placed on top of a similarly configured block.

30. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 29, wherein the lock flange extends across the block bottom surface from the first block side to the second block side.

31. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 29, wherein the lock flange front surface of the adjacent blocks includes a portion that extends towards the exterior block face so as to overhang a portion of the flange front surface, the portion that extends towards the exterior block face being configured to engage the first shoulder of the lock channel of the similarly configured block such that, when the wall block is stacked atop the similarly configured block, engagement between the lock flange and the lock channel of the similarly configured block resists forward leaning or toppling of the wall block.

32. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 26, wherein the channel bottom surface of each lock channel is arcuate.

33. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the channel front wall of each lock channel extends obliquely toward the exterior block face.

34. (New) The segmental retaining wall of claim 26, wherein a plurality of the blocks include an interior block opening that extends from one block side to an opposite block side, and wherein the interior block openings of a plurality of blocks in at least one course are aligned so as to form an open interior passageway within the at least one course of the wall blocks.